

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 13, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 21 and 22 are added. Claim 12 is canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 4-22 are pending, the independent claims remaining 1, 13 and 18. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 13 and 18 are amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 11-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,646,699 to Oh et al. ("Oh").

Claim 1 recites, ". . . operable to switch between 1) surround sound operation that, by means of said input, provides a common feed of a center audio channel to the plural speakers; and 2) operation that bypasses surround sound processing to deliver audio over said plural speakers."

Support for the amendment of claim 1 is found in the specification (e.g., page 3, lines 2-4; page 6, lines 16-32) and FIG. 3.

Oh features a surround sound processor 64 but has no disclosure or suggestion of bypassing surround sound processing.

Haroun discloses a center channel for surround sound, but fails to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination with Oh, the above-quoted feature of claim 1.

For at least the above reason(s), the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Claim 13, as amended, recites, ". . . one or more internal speakers residing inside the television receiver . . . an input for a further audio signal by which the one or

more speakers, if receiving said audio signal, operate as a center channel for a plurality of speakers located externally to, and linked communicatively with, said receiver. . . control and switching means operable . . . to remove volume level from user control while connection is to said input."

Support for the amendment of claim 13 is found in the specification (e.g., page 2, line 31 - page 3, line 6; page 6, lines 16-32).

The Office Action cites lines 31-32 of Oh for mention of "an external speaker" and Oh also mentions a pair of speakers 12.

However, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above-quoted aspect.

In addition, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an embodiment ". . . to remove volume level from user control while connection is to said input."

Claim 18 is amended in the same manner, and is likewise deemed to distinguish patentably over the cited references.

Claims 7-10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Oh in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,787,259 to Haroun et al. ("Haroun").

Claims 7-10 depend from claim 1, and Haroun cannot make up for the shortcomings of Oh.

Claim 17 depends from claim 13, and Haroun cannot make up for the shortcomings of Oh.


Support for new claims 21 and 22 is found in the specification (e.g., page 2, line 31 - page 3, line 6; page 6, lines 16-32).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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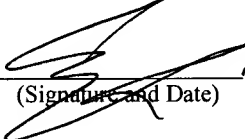

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